

Angela Boston

DOCKET # 03-123

From: Joseph Thomas [brighton62west@aim.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2006 12:22 PM

To: KJMWEB

Subject: Require Relay Interoperability

RECEIVED

APR - 3 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

March 16, 2006
Commissioner Kevin Martin
445 12th St SW
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Martin,

I was gratified to learn that the FCC is "actively considering" the issue of blocked access to video relay services (VRS). Please require interoperability and compatibility across Relay providers at the earliest possible date. I agree with the National Association of the Deaf that this rule should be required. See <http://www.nad.org/openrelay> for more information.

I want to be able to use Relay anytime with anyone, using any Relay provider, just as two hearing people can call each other regardless of who is their telephone product/service provider.

Video and IM Relay have become valuable tools for me. The traditional telephone (including TTY) is not practical for me. The use of Relay has made my work much more effective and I have become more productive. However, the value of Relay is limited because not everyone has access to my Relay product/service. Please end the exclusion of deaf and hard of hearing people from full access to telecommunications by requiring open interoperability and compatibility across Relay providers.

I do accept free Relay equipment and software from providers—not necessarily because I like a particular provider the most—but because it is free—and allows me to make calls I couldn't make before. While I appreciate the free equipment and software, I want to be able to make and receive Relay calls from anybody without any restrictions from Relay providers.

I look forward to the FCC acting quickly to implement rules ending blocking and requiring interoperability.

Sincerely,

Joseph Thomas
62 Brighton Rd
Columbus, OH 43202

CC: Representative Deborah Pryce
Senator Michael DeWine

3/28/2006

Senator George Voinovich

Angela Boston

WILL #03123

From: Joseph Thomas [brighton62west@aim.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2006 12:22 PM

To: Commissioner Adelstein

Subject: Require Relay Interoperability

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APR - 3 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

March 16, 2006
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
445 12th St SW
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554

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3/28/2006

Senator George Voinovich

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BUCKET #03123

From: Joseph Thomas [brighton62west@aim.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2006 12:22 PM

To: Michael Copps

Subject: Require Relay Interoperability

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445 12th St SW
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Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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Senator Michael DeWine

3/28/2006

Senator George Voinovich

3/28/2006

Angela Boston

LOOK#03-123

From: Susan Hernandez [sjcsue@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2006 2:22 PM

To: Commissioner Adelstein

Subject: Require Relay Interoperability

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APR - 3 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

March 15, 2006

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445 12th St SW

445 12th St SW

Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Susan Hernandez
121 Raleigh Ln
West Islip, NY 11795

CC: Representative Peter King
Senator Charles Schumer

3/28/2006

Senator Hillary Clinton

3/28/2006

Angela Boston

DocId:3403-123

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To: Michael Copps

Subject: Require Relay Interoperability

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APR - 3 2006

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Office of the Secretary

March 15, 2006
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121 Raleigh Ln
West Islip, NY 11795

CC: Representative Peter King
Senator Charles Schumer

3/28/2006

Senator Hillary Clinton

3/28/2006

Angela Boston

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CC: Representative Peter King
Senator Charles Schumer

3/28/2006

Senator Hillary Clinton

3/28/2006

Angela Boston

DOCKET #03-123

From: Greenwald, Eliot [EJGreenwald@SWIDLAW.com]

RECEIVED

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2006 3:38 PM

APR - 3 2006

To: Jonathan Adelstein; Scott Bergmann; Thomas Chandler; Monica Desai; Gregory Hlibok; Jay Keithley

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Cc: Gagnier, Paul; TDIEDir@aol.com; Besha, Katie

Subject: Dockets 03-123 and 05-231 - ex parte meetings with TDI et al re VRS interoperability and E911 and closed captioning

On behalf of Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc. ("TDI"), attached are copies of the notice of ex parte meetings that we filed in Dockets 03-123 and 05-231 regarding VRS interoperability and E911 and closed captioning.

<<TDI ex parte Feb 17.pdf>> <<TDI 03-123 conf Feb 17.pdf>> <<TDI 05-231 conf Feb 17.pdf>>

Eliot J. Greenwald
Swidler Berlin LLP
3000 K Street, N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20007-5116
202-424-7809 (direct dial)
202-424-7647 (fax)
EJGreenwald@swidlaw.com

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3/28/2006

SWIDLER BERLIN LLP

Paul O. Gagnier
Eliot J. Greenwald

The Washington Harbour
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007-5116
Phone 202.424.7500
Fax 202.424.7647
www.swidlaw.com

February 17, 2006

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Esq.
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **NOTICE OF EX PARTE MEETINGS**

Telecommunications Relay Service and Speech-to-Speech Services for
Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities
CG Docket No. 03-123

Closed Captioning of Video Programming
CG Docket No. 05-231

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc. ("TDI"), this is to provide notice of two *ex parte* meetings held on February 16, 2006 regarding the above-referenced dockets. Claude L. Stout, Executive Director, TDI, Sheri A. Farinha, CEO, NorCal Center on Deafness, representing the California Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing ("CCASDHH"), Kelby N. Brick, Director of Law and Advocacy, National Association of the Deaf ("NAD") Law and Advocacy Center, and Jeff Rosen, General Counsel, National Council on Disability ("NCD") (collectively the "Consumer Organizations") met with (1) Monica Desai, Chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau ("CGB"), Jay Keithley, Deputy Chief, CGB, Thomas E. Chandler, Chief, Disability Rights Office, and Gregory Hlibok, Attorney, Disability Rights Office, and (2) Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein and Scott Bergmann, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Adelstein.

At both meetings the representatives of the Consumer Organizations discussed their *ex parte* letter of February 15, 2006 responding to the January 6, 2006 written *ex parte* presentation submitted by Sorenson Communications, Inc. ("Sorenson"). The representatives stressed the need for Video Relay Service ("VRS") interoperability and the functional equivalency and improved service resulting from interoperable VRS. They explained that VRS blocking features

interfere with access to VRS by all people who use VRS—hearing people as well as people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The representatives of the Consumer Organizations also discussed enhanced 9-1-1 service (“E911”), and the need for emergency calling services for all forms of Telecommunications Relay Service (“TRS”), not just TTY and voice carry over (“VCO”). They explained that many people who are deaf or hard of hearing no longer have TTY devices and therefore need access to emergency services through VRS, IP-Relay and two-way paging services. They suggested that the President establish a task force of all E911 stakeholders—representatives of the deaf and hard of hearing communities, the providers of various forms of TRS, the telecommunications companies that manage the E911 network, and the public safety answering points (“PSAPs”)—to work out a solution for the E911 needs of those who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Lastly, the representatives of the Consumer Organizations discussed closed captioning. They went over the impact of closed captioning on access of those who are deaf and hard of hearing to television services and the evolution of closed captioning. They explained that new standards, as advocated by the Consumer Organizations in Docket 05-231, are needed to improve the quality of closed captioning so that people who are deaf and hard of hearing can truly have full access to television.

Very truly yours,

/S/

Paul O. Gagnier
Eliot J. Greenwald

cc: Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein (by e-mail)
Scott Bergmann (by e-mail)
Thomas E. Chandler (by e-mail)
Monica Desai (by e-mail)
Gregory Hlibok (by e-mail)
Jay Keithley (by e-mail)

**Federal Communications Commission**

**The FCC Acknowledges Receipt of Comments From ...
Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc. et al
...and Thank You for Your Comments**

Your Confirmation Number is: '2006217586339 '

Date Received: Feb 17 2006

Docket: 03-123

Number of Files Transmitted: 1

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updated 12/11/03



**The FCC Acknowledges Receipt of Comments From ...
Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc.
...and Thank You for Your Comments**

Your Confirmation Number is: '2006217991076 '

Date Received: Feb 17 2006

Docket: 05-231

Number of Files Transmitted: 1

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updated 12/11/03

Angela Boston

DOUGLAS # D3 D3

RECEIVED

From: Roger Frazier [swissche@mchsi.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2006 7:22 PM

To: KJMWEB

APR - 3 2006

Subject: 3K is not the required number

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I think that the FCC should close up shop and just go away. You place the entire case for fining a broadcast station on the complaints of 300, 000 people and ignore the rest that didn't complain. Now how is that for a "kiss my ass" use of logic. The wacko right now gets to out weigh the rest of the entire country. Where is the representative democracy in all this

3/28/2006

Angela Boston

BUCKET # 03-123

From: Jeanne Lavelle [JALavelle@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2006 4:02 AM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: Thank you for the new VRS rules

RECEIVED

APR - 3 2006

March 28, 2006
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin Kevin Martin
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin Martin,

Thank you for your decisive leadership on July 14, 2005 accepting the National Association of the Deaf petition on captioning, adopting Video Relay Service (VRS) rules that will improve the quality of VRS and ensure that it moves closer to the goal of functional equivalent access to telecommunications, and clarifying that two-line captioned telephone service can be reimbursed by the TRS fund.

I am thrilled with the new VRS rules that the FCC passed to ensure that the service is brought closer to the goal of a functional equivalent telecommunications service. These rules will make our lives easier now that I can access the nation's telephone network using VRS, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and with a prompt response to my initial call. In addition, I look forward to using the VRS Mail feature to leave messages with my friends, family, and co-workers. I also look forward to new rules upgrading and enforcing the quality of captions on television.

However, I urge the FCC to continue to improve the speed of answer for VRS and to enforce FCC rules against blocking. I should be able to use any provider I want without interference from any other provider.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jeanne Lavelle
9703 Galsworth Ct
Fairfax, VA 22032

Angela Boston

Docket #03-123

From: Sandy Cherry [rscherry@netzero.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2006 8:02 PM

To: KJMWEB

Subject: Require Relay Interoperability

RECEIVED

APR - 3 2006

March 28, 2006
Commissioner Kevin Martin
445 12th St SW
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioner Martin,

Representative Michael Turner

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I want to be able to use Relay anytime with anyone, using any Relay provider, just as two hearing people can call each other regardless of who is their telephone product/service provider.

Video and IM Relay have become valuable tools for me. The traditional telephone (including TTY) is not practical for me. The use of Relay has made my work much more effective and I have become more productive. However, the value of Relay is limited because not everyone has access to my Relay product/service. Please end the exclusion of deaf and hard of hearing people from full access to telecommunications by requiring open interoperability and compatibility across Relay providers.

I do accept free Relay equipment and software from providers—not necessarily because I like a particular provider the most—but because it is free—and allows me to make calls I couldn't make before. While I appreciate the free equipment and software, I want to be able to make and receive Relay calls from anybody without any restrictions from Relay providers.

I look forward to the FCC acting quickly to implement rules ending blocking and requiring interoperability.

Sincerely,

Sandy Cherry
7496 Stone Ridge Dr
Springboro, OH 45066

3/30/2006

CC: Representative Michael Turner
Senator Michael DeWine
Senator George Voinovich

3/30/2006

Angela Boston

From: Patty Trek [patty_trek@yahoo.com]

Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2006 2:02 PM

To: KJMWEB

Subject: Require Relay Interoperability

March 25, 2006
Commissioner Kevin Martin
445 12th St SW
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Martin,

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I want anyone who uses Relay to be able to use Relay anytime with anyone, using any Relay provider, just as two hearing people can call each other regardless of who is their telephone product/service provider.

Video and IM Relay have become valuable tools for my deaf friends. The traditional telephone (including TTY) is not practical for them. The use of Relay has made their work much more effective and I see they have become more productive. However, the value of Relay is limited because not everyone has access to that Relay product/service. Please end the exclusion of deaf and hard of hearing people from full access to telecommunications by requiring open interoperability and compatibility across Relay providers.

I want my friends to be able to make and receive Relay calls from anybody without any restrictions from Relay providers.

I look forward to the FCC acting quickly to implement rules ending blocking and requiring interoperability.

Thank you for your help in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Patty Trek
128 Main St
Brockport, NY 14420

CC: Representative Thomas Reynolds
Senator Charles Schumer

3/30/2006

Senator Hillary Clinton

3/30/2006

Angela Boston

Docket #03-123

From: Jill Moebus [jmoebus@usgs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2006 7:52 AM
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Subject: Require Relay Interoperability

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Office of the Secretary

March 22, 2006
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Sincerely,

Jill Moebus
1025A Margate Ct
Sterling, VA 20164

CC: Representative Frank Wolf
Senator John Warner

3/30/2006

Senator George Allen

3/30/2006